

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025365

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, FI, UR, CSCE

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN

REF: HELSINKI 241

1. DEPT. AGREES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR ZAVIDOVO FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET LEADERS. AS WE SEE IT, MAIN PURPOSE OF YOUR CALL WOULD BE TO REAFFIRM OUR CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY AND THE HIGH ESTEEM WITH WHICH WE REGARD PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. MEETING WOULD ALSO BE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO COMMUNICATE TO FINNISH GOVERNMENT OUR CURRENT THINKING REGARDING CSCE AND, OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO FINNS, OUR VIEWS ON TIMING AND VENUE OF THIRD STAGE DRAWING ON EXCELLENT ROUNDUP ON CSCE DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA 665. BEYOND THAT, YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IN BROAD TERMS US VIEWS ON MID-EAST AND CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, WE SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON STATE MESSAGES 4153, 4158 AND 4159 ON FORTH-CONFIDENTIAL

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COMING ENERGY ACTION GROUP MEETING, AS WELL AS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATOR SIMON'S JAN. 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH CONTAINS BASIC US VIEW ON GLOBAL ASPECT OF ENERGY CRISIS AND WHICH WAS CARRIED ON USIA WIRE-

LESS FILE. SECRETARY'S JAN. 22 PRESS CONFERENCE MAY BE USED FOR DISCUSSION OF MID-EAST SITUATION.

2. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KEKKONEN NOT MISINTERPRET YOUR MEETING WITH HIM AS SUGGESTING THAT USG WISHES TO USE HIM TO CONVEY ANY KIND OF "MESSAGE" TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP. USG CURRENTLY HAS CLOSE AND DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIGHEST LEVELS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AND ANY IMPLICATION THAT THIRD PARTY WAS NEEDED TO SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY WOULD ONLY CONFUSE SITUATION. FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO USE THIS OCCASION TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL ISSUES WITH WHICH FINLAND NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, SUCH AS MBFR AND SALT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY THESE COMPLEX ISSUES.

3. ADDITIONAL US VIEWS ON CSCE VENUE AND TIMING WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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